

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 2/14/2013

GAIN Report Number: TH3020

Thailand

Post: Bangkok

AMS Certification is Acceptable to Thai Authorities

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Events

Food Processing Ingredients

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

TH3020. U.S. exporters are hereby informed that the Thai Department of Agriculture (DOA) accepts Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Certificates from the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service for the import of frozen fruit products into Thailand.

In collaboration with the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Post successfully persuaded Thai Department of Agriculture officials to accept AMS' Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) in lieu of APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate to meet plant health control requirements under the Thai Plant Quarantine Act. In order to comply with the Thai regulations, exporters should ensure that the AMS certificate includes: 1) A statement that the product is processed at temperatures below -17.8° C or 0° F; and 2) A statement indicating temperature information during the time of export. The product will also be subject to inspection at the port of entry to ensure that the temperature requirements are met.

Thailand's frozen fruit imports totaled \$12.5 million in the first 11 months of 2012 (see attached trade table). Thailand is a promising market for U.S. exports as the Thai food industry seeks higher-quality imported frozen fruits to improve the quality of its processed products. The U.S. market share of the frozen fruit segment is around three percent, thus, there is still room for U.S. exports to grow.



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Animal and Plant
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To Whom It May Concern:

January 11, 2013

The purpose of this letter is to clarify U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy in regard to export certification of plant products.

Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA, provides phytosanitary inspection and certification for plants and unprocessed plant products. The inspection and certification functions are conducted according to the regulations set forth in Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, part 353 - Phytosanitary Export Certification, and in close conformity with the dictates of the Articles of the International Plant Protection Convention administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Plant products considered to have been processed or manufactured to the extent that there is negligible risk of harboring injurious plant pests are not eligible for Federal phytosanitary certification.

Frozen fruit are not considered to be eligible for a Federal phytosanitary certificate due to their highly processed condition.

Sincerely,

John Troutwine

Export Certification Specialist



APHIS - Protecting and Promoting Our Agriculture

Thailand Import Statistics				
Fruit And Nuts, Whether Not Sweetened, Frozen				
Year To Date: January - December				
Partner Country	United States Dollars			
	2009	2010	2011	2012 (Jan-Nov)
World	3,980,892	14,740,443	11,391,411	12,526,981
China	3,229,524	8,930,520	9,692,369	9,888,065
New Zealand	45,262	87,493	386,913	179,188
Chile	82,496	126,740	343,793	270,640
Canada	84,526	173,457	231,880	243,311
Indonesia	0	0	147,486	131,119
Poland	5,013	46,893	75,418	52,845
Serbia	0	31,989	56,951	14,830
Australia	279,482	134,477	55,620	34,879
France	24,615	25,626	49,815	40,540
United States	51,892	5,103,462	42,486	390,249
Belgium	45,986	16,447	38,292	41,946
Ukraine	0	0	12,150	0
United Kingdom	30	0	6,924	12,257
Korea South	3,007	0	3,748	2,563
Argentina	0	0	3,063	4,802
Singapore	0	1,602	3,042	0
United Arab Emirates	0	0	1,481	698
Germany	0	0	96	0
Netherlands	0	0	73	25,416
Italy	0	28	43	0
Japan	616	574	0	37,251
Mexico	0	19,306	0	0
Morocco	3,049	2,100	0	1,537
Philippines	0	133	0	18,856
Czechoslovakia (Former)	21,623	12,703	0	9,947
Egypt	0	209	0	0
Vietnam	38,110	24,079	0	97
Spain	136	0	0	0
Taiwan	107	0	0	0

Source of Data: Thai Customs Department